

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 151750Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0558

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJ: ECHEVERRIA JEERED AS PA GAMES OPEN

1. ON OCT 12 I ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF THE PAN AMERICAN GAMES AT WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PRESIDED. MORE THAN 100,000 PERSONS WERE PRESENT AND MEXICAN ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY WAS ONCE AGAIN EVIDENT AS EVERYTHING WENT WELL, WITH ONE PROMINENT EXCEPTION.

2. WHEN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS INTRODUCED, CROWD BROKE INTO LOUD, DERISIVE WHISTLES UNMIXED WITH ANY APPLAUSE. THE SPONTANEITY OF THIS CROWD REACTION CAUSED COMMENT AMONG MEXICANS HERE, IN PART BECAUSE APPLAUSE ON SUCH OCCASIONS USUALLY IS PROMPTED BY WELL PLACED ORGANIZERS. THE FOLLOWING EVENING FORMER PRESIDENT MIGUEL ALEMAN (WHO OWNS A MEXICO CITY TV STATION) TOLD ME THE ADVERSE REACTION HAS BEEN CUT FROM TV VIEWERS AT REQUEST OF GOM, BUT ALEMAN BACKED OFF FROM DRAWING ANY CONCLUSION FROM THE INCIDENT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT WAS UNUSUAL, BUT NOT UNKNOWN, FOR CROWDS TO REACT THUS TO A MEXICAN PRESIDENT WHO WAS A LAME DUCK.

3. SOME OTHER OBSERVATIONS OF THE INAUGURATION: MEXICAN TEAM NATURALLY RECEIVED LARGEST OVATION. CUBAN TEAM WAS A PROMINENT SECOND PLACE. US TEAM RECEIVED MIXED REACTION OF BOTH WHISTLES AND APPLAUSE.

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4. I ALSO NOTICED THAT TEAMS WHICH MADE SOME FRIENDLY
GESTURE, SUCH AS CARRYING AND WAVING FLAGS, HATS, OR HAND-
KERCHIEFS PROMPTED MORE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD RESPONSE, AND
THIS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND BY FUTURE SPORTS DELEGATIONS.
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